

“COUNT IT ALL JOY”

JAMES 1:1-12

Structure of James 2:1-12:

Introduction (1:1)

- Author: “*James*” – Brother of Jesus;
 - Called “*James the Just*.” He was Pastor of the Jerusalem church.
- Description: “*Servant*” – “Bond-slave”
 - Why James was a great leader... The essence of leadership is servanthood!
- Focus: “*of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ*”
 - “Even though Jesus is kin to me I prefer my spiritual relationship to him above my fleshly relationship to Him.”
- Audience: Jewish Christians (all Christians)
- Message: “*Greetings*” Rejoice! Be glad.

I. Facts about Trials (vv.2-4)

II. Faith in Trials (vv.5-8)

III. Focusing throughout Trials (vv.9-12)

8 main reasons from the Bible why God allows trials to come into our lives...

1. To test the strength of our faith.
2. To humble us.
3. To wean us from our dependence on worldly things.
4. To call us to eternal and heavenly hope.
5. To reveal what we really love.
6. To teach us to value God’s blessings.
7. To develop in His saints enduring strength for greater usefulness.
8. To enable us to better help others in their trials.

Practical Outline of James 2:1-12. (3 keys to joyfully persevere through trials...)

How should a believer handle trials and tribulations?

Theme: We should joyfully endure trials by looking to God in Faith and by realizing that trials are for our good.

Another way of saying it is simply this... Have joyful faith in God during trials!

I. We must understand the key facts in order to persevere through trials.

- A. Trials are inevitable (v.1) “*When ye fall into*”
- B. Trials come in various ways. (v.2) “*divers temptations*”

Physical—sickness, injury, disease,
Emotional—pride, envy, covetousness, worldliness, affections,
Spiritual—come through a time when the word of God is boring to you, etc...
Mental—You have a hard time focusing on the things of God.
Financial—Your finances are not where you think they should be.

C. Trials test (prove) our faith.

God already knows what is in our hearts, but tests us so that we can know our own spiritual condition and so that others can be influenced by our testimony.

D. Trials are for our good.

1. Trials produce patience and experience for future trials.
2. Trials allow experience and patience to mature.
3. Experiencing trials make us stronger and sufficient in our spiritual lives.

II. We must understand the key means for persevering through trials.

- A joyful attitude (v.2) “*Count it all joy...*”
- B. An understanding mind (v.3) “*Knowing this...*”
- C. A submissive will (v.4) “*But let patient have her perfect work...*”
- D. A believing heart (vv.5-8) “*But let him ask in faith*”
- E. A humble spirit (9-11) “*low degree, rejoice... rich in that he made low...*”

III. We must understand the key rewards of persevering through trials.

A. Maturity

1. Gaining Spiritual Strength (vv.2-4)
2. Gaining Stronger Faith (vv.5-8)
3. Gaining Stronger Contentment (vv.9-11)

B. Promised blessings from God (v.12)

So What?

To those in the midst of trials:

Are you looking to God for answers? Are you resting content in the fact that His way and His plan is best?

To those who are not yet in the midst of trials:

Are you preparing yourself by arming yourself with God's Word and yielding to the Holy Spirit? Who will you look to when trials and temptations come?